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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 04528 042130Z

12
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 COME-00 INT-05 AID-05 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 COA-01 DLOS-03

/038 W
---------- 108368
R 042055Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1950

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4528

E.O. 11652: XGDS3 INDEFINITE
TAGS: ENRG
SUBJECT: DEEP WATER PORT AT PUERTO RICO

1. THIS MORNING'S EL CARIBE CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH PUERTO RICO GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON WHO SAID THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DEEP WATER PORT AT MONA ISLAND IS NOT RPT NOT BEING CONSIDERED AT THE PRESENT TIME.

2. DURING ONE OF MY PREVIOUS TRIPS TO PUERTO RICO SOME MONTHS AGO, I DISCUSSED THE DEEP WATER PORT ISSUE WITH TED MOSCOSO WHO SAID THAT THE MONA ISLAND IDEA HAD BEEN DROPPED SINCE THE US NAVY WAS CONSIDERING IT AS A POSSIBLE ALTER-NATIVE TO THE CULEBRA FIRING RANGE. HE THOUGHT AT THAT TIME THE US NAVY STUDY WOULD BE TIME-CONSUMING AND THE PUERTO RICAN GOVERNMENT WISHED TO MOVE BRISKLY AHEAD ON THE DEEP WATER PORT-REFINERY COMPLEX.

3. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT FOR LAW OF THE SEA REASONS ESPECIALLY, SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF MONA ISLAND AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CULEBRA HAS BEEN ALL BUT ABANDONED. IF SO, I WOULD URGE THAT IF POSSIBLE WE WITHHOLD SUCH INFORMATION FROM THE PUERTO RICAN AUTHORITIES FOR AS LONG AS FEASIBLE BECAUSE DISCLOSURE COULD RE-INTEREST THEM IN MONA ISLAND WITH ALL THE CONSEQUENT DOMINICAN UPROAR OVER POTENTIAL POLLUTION OF ITS BEACHES. SINCE THE EARLIER PUERTO RICAN ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT
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MONA ISLAND HAD BEEN DISCARDED AS A POSSIBILITY, THE

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ISSUE HAS BEEN QUIESCENT HERE. IN OTHER WORDS, PLEASE TRY
TO MAINTAIN THE APPEARANCE OF MONA ISLAND BEING IN THE RUNNING
AS ALTERNATIVE FOR CULEBRA FOR AS LONG AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.
HURWITCH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
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